



the

# ACTivist

~ 10th ANNIVERSARY YEAR ~

Ontario's Peace Newspaper

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JULY/AUG 1994

## Innu resist dams and bombing ranges

by Alan Dixon

Peace Brigades International

On June 15, 1994, about fifteen Innu and supporters arrested the previous day at the barricade on the access road to the SM3 dam project were arraigned in court. The Crown prosecutor brought charges of criminal mischief for blocking the road and occupying a hunting lodge and also charges of impeding a court official in the discharge of his duties. After receiving bail conditions, the accused have been released until the Sept. 8 trial date.

This is not the first time that Hydro Quebec has built a hydro dam on land claimed by the Innu. In the case of the Churchill falls dam, built in Labrador in the 50s, the Innu were neither consulted nor warned, and the huge area that was flooded included gravesites and archaeological sites that will now never be explored. In the 60s, several large dams were built on the Manicouagan and Outardes rivers, which at that time supplied about 40% of Quebec's power. The Innu of Betsiamites, on whose land these were built, have never received any compensation.

Nor is it the first time that the Innu have opposed these dams. At Lac Robertson a couple of years ago,

HQ defied a series of legal injunctions lodged by the Innu who claim rights to that land, that had asked them to stop building a dam there. The injunctions were challenged, and building continued, until the injunction was finally overturned - although by then construction was almost finished.

In the case of SM3, originally announced in 1987, the project was initially rejected by a majority of the Innu of Uashat and Mani- Utenam in a referendum. Nevertheless, negotiations continued, and in April of this year, an agreement was signed by the Band Council and HQ.

This agreement was subject to ratification by a referendum on the reserve, held on June 13. The terms of the agreement specified \$66 million in HQ financed projects for the Innu. This included funds to mitigate the environmental impact and damage to traditional hunting and fishing, and also held out the promise of well-paying employment for native contractors and workers over the ten year span of the construction. In return, the agreement specified that the Band Council would take on all legal responsibility for settling any Innu claims against the dam.

*continued on page 3*



*This spring (May 4th), 13 Innu and two supporters from a hunting camp near Minenipi Lake, Labrador, hiked across frozen lakes and rivers into Minenipi Bombing Range, to protest war games on their land. The range is an 8-mile diameter target area, in which NATO forces discharge "dummy bombs" from low-flying military jets.*

*The protesters, consisting of 7 adults and 8 children, set up their tent and Innu flag on a hilltop overlooking the centre of the bombing area. For two days, their presence put a halt to combat exercises. Confounding military police, they eluded arrest and returned to the hunting camp.*

## Stop low-level flights now!

*The following is the draft brief by the International Campaign for the Innu and the Earth (ICIE) to the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO).*

ICIE calls for an immediate halt to low-level military flight training in Nitassinan (Labrador/Quebec peninsula) from CFB Goose Bay.

First of all it is important to note that the Innu have lived in northeastern North America for over 2,000 years.

The Innu have never ceded their lands to any government, ever. They are opposed to low-level military flight training and the militarization of their lands.

ICIE's critique of the Department of National Defence's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) can be simply stated: there cannot be protection for people, wildlife and the environment AND continued low-level military flight training (LLMFT).

DND's Option A would see an increase in the number of flights from the current 6-8,000 a year to a maximum of 18,000 flights (15,000 at low-level) within the same 100,000 square kilometre Low-Level Training Area (LLTA). DND also demands a diminished avoidance strategy under Option A.

DND's Option B also proposes an increase to 18,000 flights (15,000 at low-level) but within a reconfigured LLTA enlarged in size to 130,000 square kilometres. Current avoidance standards are proposed.

The existing avoidance program has done little to eliminate the potential impacts of LLMFTing in Nitassinan and has been developed on the basis of political negotiations rather than on scientific criteria. DND has had great difficulties in enforcing compliance with the avoidance restrictions. Serious violations of airspace restrictions have been regularly taking place. The jets have not been avoiding Innu hunting camps. The avoidance restrictions are largely a public relations exercise for DND.

It is hard to imagine how DND can assume (under Option A) that the number of flights can increase to 18,000 a year with fewer avoidance measures to protect people, wildlife and the environment when they have been largely ineffective with fewer flights a year currently.

The reconfigured LLTA under Option B equally will do little to ensure protection. The proposed avoidance strategy remains minimal and while it will eliminate sensitive wildlife habitat in the north, it will implicate more sensitive areas in the south. The harvesting areas of the La Romaine, Natashquan, and Sheshatshit Innu will continue to be overflowed with great regularity and in addition lands belonging to the Mingan and St. Augustin Innu will also be overflowed.

Under Option B, there will be more flights over a greater area with no credibly enhanced avoidance measures. More people and wildlife will be overflowed while more of the environment will be threatened by the impact of overflights.

DND's revised EIS again fails to study  
*(continued on page 8)*

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## the ACTivist

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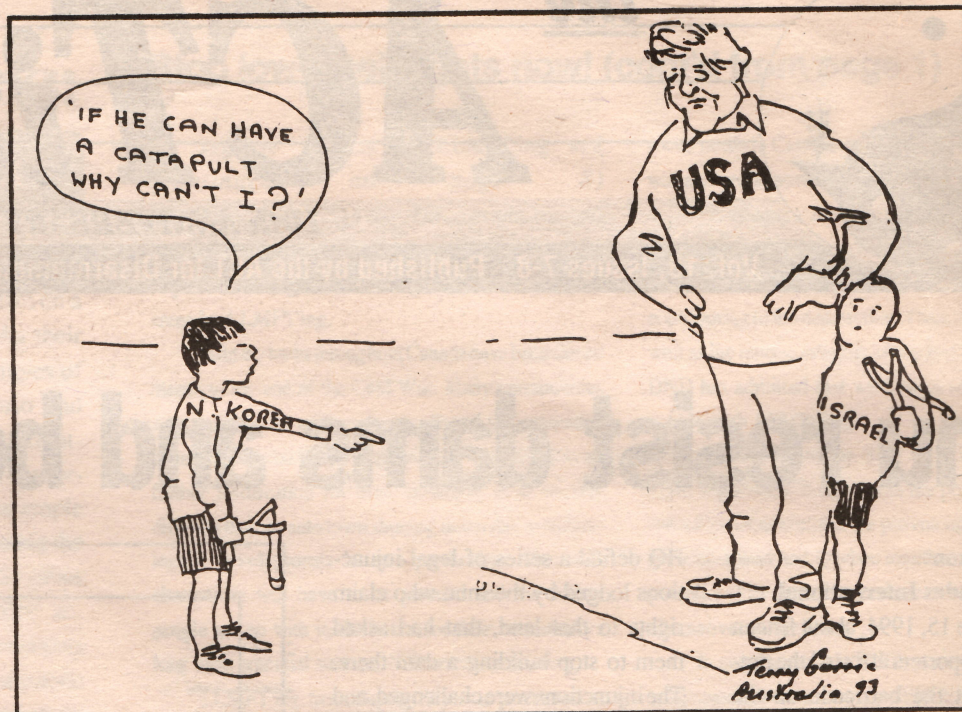
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**Contributors in this issue:** — Editorial: Greg Boa, Trevor Cunningham, Penny Costoglou, Stephen Dankowich, Lucie Desjarlais, Alan Dixon, Tim Doucette, Robert Hunter, Adrienne Reynolds, David Webster

**Contributors in this issue:** — Production: Aloy, Tim Doucette, Angelo Gonsalves, Adrienne Reynolds, Sue Snell, David Webster

**Mailing and Distribution:** Saul Chernos, Tim Doucette, Angelo Gonsalves, Nik Groot, Mary Hutchinson, Frank Showler, David Webster, ACT Guelph, ACT Oakville

Opinions expressed in this paper may not necessarily be those of ACT.



## Letters



I am writing to protest the low level flights over Nitassinan, the Innu homeland on the Quebec-Labrador peninsula and to express my desire to sign the petition circulating to end this atrocity. I refuse to accept the false notion that combat training is necessary to protect our rights as Canadians.

It is not my intention to devalue those men and women who died for our rights and freedoms during World War II. They lived during different times and under different circumstances and there is a time to defend ourselves and others.

It is time to realize the harm and pain that is caused to others for the purpose of rule of divide and conquer by the powers that be. It is necessary to find peaceful resolutions and end the need for combat training which is destroying the peace and tranquility that exists in the wilderness.

It will take action to prevent these unjust actions and through

the use of the pen and many voices it might be accomplished. It takes both the pen and the voice to be mightier than the sword.

Kathryn McLean  
Stoney Creek, Ont.

Re: Day of action against Royal Bank (the ACTivist, June 94):

While I sympathize with the intentions behind this action, I find that this kind of action is basically ineffectual and will serve only to alienate those people who might become supporters. To close one's bank account in the name of justice to the Third World is something only the *most moral* would actually do. These people are *very few*. Banks only follow the mass trends anyway, and depositors rely on their conservatism to secure their savings.

A better action is to educate

consumers about their **power** as spenders — *more powerful than voting*. Teach people that every dollar they spend is *politically, socially* influential. Write a guide for *spending* to change the world. The banks will follow the consumers.

Angela Chang Alloy  
Brampton, Ont.

(Ed. note: Those unable to close their accounts are encouraged to send letters, as concerned consumers, to their bank president.)

the ACTivist  
encourages you to  
submit letters to:

736 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, ON  
M5S 2R4

JO PEACENIK

## Bring back the Wall

**COLD COMFORT:** Old cold warlord Gen. Ramsey Withers, chief of Canadian "defence" staff for some of the coldest days in hell, laments his recent loss of enemies.

"It gives you comfort if you know where the attack is coming from and you can plan accordingly, and we don't have that comfort any more. In some ways, it is the worst of times."

There, there, old boy — you'll find new hate-mates soon enough. In the meantime, the ACTivist attacks you all the time — why not buy a sub? ('Scription, that is.)

**SMELLS LIKE MEAN SPIRIT:** Two Serbian designers announced in Belgrade in May that they would soon begin manufacturing cologne called "Serb", in a canister that resembles a hand grenade. "We don't have to be ashamed", says a press release, "because everything vile has already been blamed on the Serbs."

**BIG BUGGER:** The Canadian State is reviewing new laws that would make it easier for cops to bug computers or digital communications.

"We look at these kinds of laws favorably," said RCMP

spokespig Cpl. Jean Moreau, "as a way to do our job better," adding that the alterations are "similar to the law the U.S. is putting in place."

If passed, the U.S. law will legalize spying on credit card usage, telephone calling patterns, automated teller transactions and interactive cable television systems.

Canadian Federal Privacy Commissioner Bruce Phillips told the *Toronto Star* that his office, unlike the RCMP, was not contacted for comments on the government's new plan.

"Statutes that have particular privacy implications, they don't always bring them to us." Eh? ☹

## Editorial

## Nuclear in-laws

It's hard not to shake your head in wonder at the recent hysteria over nuclear weapons in the Korean peninsula.

The spectacle of U.S. President Bill Clinton up in arms about the prospect of north Korea getting a small nuclear arsenal is a little rich when you consider the size of the American nuclear arsenal and look at who some of the most popular politicians in the United States are: Oliver North, for one. (Is his current campaign for a Senate seat in Virginia the first stepping stone towards a presidential run? Only his bodyguard knows for sure.)

Of course American leaders can't compare with the late, unlamented dictator Kim Il-Sung or his even more crazed son Kim Jong-Il. Nevertheless, their hypocrisy is showing.

It shows even more when you look at the deafening silence from the moral watchdogs of Washington over Israel's nuclear arsenal. Israel secretly amassed a substantial collection of nukes by diverting the work of its nuclear fuel processing plant at Dimona to weapons production. Now it can hold its neighbours hostage and exert the same sort of nuclear terror in the Middle East the Americans want to prevent north Korea from wielding in the Far East.

The nuclear card has even dealt a crushing blow to Israeli democracy: when Dimona technician Mordechai Vanunu published photographic evidence that Israel had nuclear weapons, he was kidnapped by Mossad agents and sentenced to a lengthy jail term for prison.

And did we hear a peep from Washington when the former apartheid regime of South Africa looked like it was becoming a nuclear weapons state?

The spread of nuclear weapons to more and more countries has to be stopped, of course. But why just in north Korea? Why not in Israel as well? Why not, for that matter, in the United States, Russia, China, France, and Britain?

In Korea the problem is that the Cold War is still on. Despite the death of Kim, north Korea remains a throwback to the days of Stalin. The south has recently allowed free elections, but the same people remain firmly in control. In both halves of the country, most of the Korean people are marginalized.

No one questions that Koreans would like to be reunified. It's the cold war divisions fuelled by militarism that are keeping Korea divided. Sabre-rattling from Washington and Pyongyang does nothing to help the cause of peace in the Korean peninsula. ☹

## ACT Chapters and Contacts

**ACT Toronto**  
736 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4  
(416) 531-6154  
Fax: (416) 531-5850  
act@web.apc.org

**Victoria Contact**  
Mac, Bee and Corinne  
8509A West Coast Rd.  
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0  
(604) 642-6759

**Hamilton Contact**  
Peter Hutton  
(905)

**ACT Oakville**  
c/o Oakville Community  
Centre for peace,  
ecology & human rights  
148 Kerr Street  
Oakville, ON L6K 3A7  
Tel/Fax: (905) 849-5501  
occpchr@web.apc.org

**St. Catharines Contact**  
Bruce Allen  
(905) 934-6233

**Fredericton Contact**  
Diane Terry  
(506) 472-2629

**ACT Guelph**  
P.O. Box 1302  
Guelph, ON  
N1H 6N6  
(519) 767-0313  
Fax: (519) 767-1785  
hands@web.apc.org

**Vancouver Contact**  
Susan Moore  
(604) 988-3740

**Peterborough Contact**  
Ontario Public Interest  
Research Group  
(705) 748-1767



# Toronto activists perform debt-defying acts

by Lucie Desjarlais  
International Debt Treaty Movement

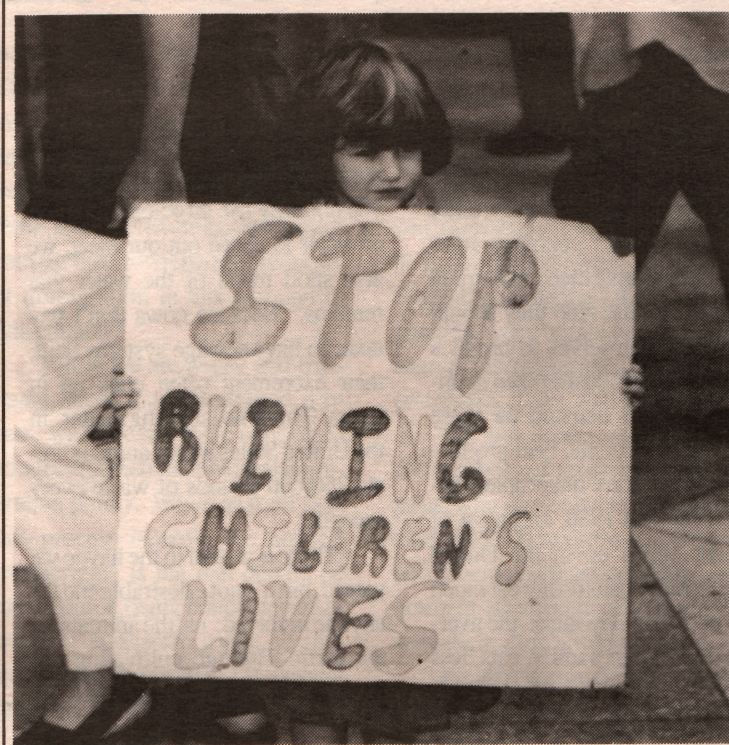
A coalition of Toronto organizations recently came together to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, institutions that are continuing to fuel the Third World debt crisis — despite the fact that the debt has already been repaid many times over. A summary of local events follows.

**Saturday, July 9:** Sistah's Cafe was filled with over 30 women of all ages, colors, class, and social status. We listened and learned about the conditions of life imposed upon working classes in Third World countries by the present international economic system, particularly the harsh structures implanted by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to indebted countries. The speakers explained to us why women are most affected, being the caregivers of the children, the elderly and the sick. Their burden has considerably increased over the past few years, and their health is being undermined. At the same time, we learned of their courage, of the groups and unions being formed, and their desire to preserve dignity and quality of life for themselves and their communities.

**Tuesday, July 12:** Forty people attended the discussion evening on Tuesday, at 11 Madison Avenue. It was a very moving experience, as the panel spoke of their countries' and individual's experiences in struggling against austerity measures imposed by the international financial institutions. We learned about the connections between infant mortality, militarism, environmental massacre, brutal working conditions, and the outflow of wealth from the South to the North in the name of debt servicing. A question period followed and the problem of the legality of this wealth drain was discussed, and how to stop it. The evening ended on an invitation to get informed about the situation and work on solutions through united action.

CIUT of Toronto and CFRU FM of Guelph University recorded the whole event, to put it on air later during the week.

**Thursday, July 14:** At the Royal Bank Plaza, approximately 100 people joined us in our demonstration-protest against the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the commercial banks' involvement in Third World countries through the debt cycle. Royal



Bank is the Canadian bank most involved in this scheme. We distributed pamphlets to passersby and Royal Bank clients to inform them about the human suffering behind economic realities. We had numerous speakers that shared their experience and knowledge, and talked about the connections between hardship and misery in the South and growing instability and insecurity here in Canada. They stressed the urgent need to unite and fight for greater equality, for justice, and for quality of life.

The performing bands brought spirit and energy to the marching group and, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., we were demonstrating our unity to our sisters and brothers in the South, and here in Canada. We demand the cancellation of the external debt held by Third World countries, and we encourage people to close their bank account with Royal Bank, CIBC, Scotia Bank, Bank of Montreal, and National Bank, to tell them the reasons, and to bank with credit unions.

CFRU FM covered the event, as well as a few other newspapers and radio stations from Toronto.

For more information, or to get involved in the campaign, contact Lucie Desjarlais at (416) 652-4427, or Women for a Just and Healthy Planet at e-mail address PLANETWO@WEB.APC.ORG.



Corporate Raiders

## INNU (cont'd from page 1)

Nevertheless, a group called the Coalition for Nitassinan, who have chosen unconditional rejection of the dam, did not agree with this process. Their political and legal opposition to the dam, ongoing since the announcement of the project, had been consistently blocked. As one example, there is currently a 30-year legal injunction prohibiting the residents of the Mani-Utenam (where the Coalition has most of its members) from engaging in legal demonstrations, protests, etc. The original injunction had been filed by the Band

Council of Uashat, but even they were surprised by the 30-year term imposed by the judge. As a result, the Coalition organized the non-violent blockade of the access road — what they considered as their only remaining vehicle to object to the construction of the dam.

In the referendum, the agreement negotiated between the Band Council and HQ was narrowly approved, with about 52% of the vote. In Uashat, the vote was about 75% for it, while in Mani-Utenam, the vote was 65% opposed to it. The

arrests of the Coalition protesters happened the morning after the vote, although the SQ claims that the decision to make the arrests was not dependent on the vote. Nevertheless, in press statements before the arrests, the SQ affirmed that the issue was essentially political, and in timing the arrests they also had to take into account relations between natives, government and the SQ.

Band Council chief Eli-Jacques Jourdain, who was involved in the negotiation of the agreement, was

*continued on Page 6*

## action of the month

On the suggestion of reader Helen Hansen of Toronto, the ACTivist will be running a suggested "action of the month" for our readers in each issue.

This summer, we ask supporters to write in support of the Innu people of Nitassinan (Labrador and eastern Quebec). It is time that low-level flight tests by Britain, Germany and the Netherlands over Innu lands are stopped.

The Innu have asked Canadians and people from around the world to join them in resisting the invasion of their homeland. You can make the difference in stopping low-level military flight training over Nitassinan in 1994 and in protecting the environment.

Letters can be sent (postage free) to P.M. Jean Chrétien, Defence Minister David Collonette, and Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin, all @ House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6.

## Support Native Rights



## Support the Innu

## Demonstrate! Tuesday July 26

### Liberal Party headquarters

Yonge & St. Mary (between Bloor & Wellesley)

Lunchtime demo: 12:00-1:00 pm

After-work demo: 6:00-7:00 pm

International Campaign for the Innu and the Earth  
(416) 531-6154



# "Green" Eggs and Ham? We don't think so

by Trevor Cunningham  
and Greg Boa  
the ACTivist

Knowingly buying a stock that depreciates would be considered ludicrous by any financial advisor. Food is much like a stock: we have the potential to lose a lot from the diet we choose. By lowering our diets on the food chain, we can limit the damage that the web of life endures. We must always remember that we depend on this web, therefore we have a vested interest in its fate. Out of respect for ourselves and the world around us, we must attempt to curb the spending of our resources and maximize our returns. One way to accomplish this is to cut meat out of our diets.

Modern technology strives for efficiency, yet our present mechanized animal farm fails by proving unsustainable. The average North American's diet consists of 30% meat (190 lbs/yr.). In our insatiable quest for this meat, we must feed an enormous amount of grains to our livestock. When "cycling" grain like this, we waste 90% of its protein, 96% of its calories, 100% of its fibre, and 100% of its carbohydrates. As you can see our stock is failing miserably: imagine the reaction of our financial advisor to our consistent 90%+ losses. The cattle, sheep, pigs, and chickens use up all of these nutrients in their short lives to drive their own metabolisms. You may think that the corn fields you motor past leisurely in the summer are destined for human mouths, but actually

80% of this corn we feed to livestock. With oats, 95% of our harvest is squandered through animals; the ratios of grain fed to humans and grain fed to livestock are comparably disproportionate with other crops.

If we feed these animals so many grains, where do they come from? 45% of the American landmass — that's where. To cultivate land, we have to clear it; the demand for meat and the land required to produce it continually rises. Consequently, we cut down more forests. Since we've already deforested most of North America, we now encourage third world countries to hack away at their forests to accommodate our meat habit. Much of the third world falls into a region that we can loosely call the tropics, and here the most devastating deforestation occurs. 50% of the 150 acres of tropical rainforest that vanish every minute is directly caused by raising livestock. Even here in North America, for every acre of land cleared for human use, seven are used for our vast numbers of livestock.

The ecological consequences of forest obliteration are complex and catastrophic. These repercussions include soil erosion, desertification, species loss, water cycle interference, and a drop in oxygen production and carbon dioxide filtration. Ecologic damage like this gives us a one-way ticket to self-destruction; eating meat only promotes this. Look at our financial advisor now — he's soiling his pants!

Furthermore, our demand for meat exceeds our own boundaries.

Having used up most of our land, we pressure developing countries to raise animals for export, and to grow other cash crops. These countries have debts that debilitate them, and to pay them off, they use land they should use to feed themselves to produce exports. We, in industrialized countries, supply the demand for these animals. For example, beef production in Costa Rica quadrupled between 1960 and 1980, and most of this beef ended up in the United States. Costa Ricans do not eat much of the beef that they raise: the average Costa Rican family eats less meat each year than the average North American housecat. With over 20 million people dying every year of malnutrition, our costly diets seem grossly unfair.

A meat-based diet is not a water friendly diet, either. We use unreasonable amounts of water producing livestock by irrigating the various crops fed to them, drinking water, and water to diffuse waste. Less water is used to produce a year's food for a pure vegetarian (no animal products whatsoever — no eggs, milk, honey, etc.) than a month's worth of food for a meat-eater. Newsweek concluded that

"the water that goes into a 1,000 pound steer would float a destroyer." We not only use atrocious amounts of water to churn out our meat, we also spoil much of the water that remains. Because cows don't pay taxes to have sewage systems built, their excrement often ends up in rivers. This is no laughing matter: in the United States alone, animals create 250,000 pounds of waste every second.

There is an end to the havoc we spread, but it's not a desirable end for anyone involved: us, the animals, or the earth. Through cultivating our meat habit, we hurl ourselves to-

wards ecological bankruptcy. Our financial advisor long ago told us that a business run like this would inevitably fail. He is frustrated that we do not follow his wise words. All he can do, though, is advise; we decide what to do with this advice. He recommends that we forsake this terrible stock that plummets so rapidly. Like this stock, the meat industry is destined to self-destruct, and a vegetarian diet proves far more sustainable. As a Buddhist proverb puts it so eloquently, "The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives." Could it be that the frog knows better than us? ☸

## INNU (cont'd from page 3)

nevertheless careful to be officially neutral on the referendum, and the electoral procedure was carried out impartially. After the referendum, Jourdain said that in light of the closeness of the vote, the agreement should be renegotiated. Such a renegotiation of the contract was not part of the agreement however, and according to reports, the Quebec minister of Native Affairs, Christos Sirros, has refused to allow any renegotiation.

It is important to recognize that the yes vote in the referendum does not necessarily imply Innu support for the dam. Several of the above historical details of other dams in Nitassinan was told to me by a man who voted "yes" in the referendum — he was convinced, probably with justification, that HQ would build the dam with or without the agreement, and decided that the Innu might as

well be involved in how it is done.

Indeed, since the signing of the tentative contract between the Band Council and Hydro Quebec, and to some extent even before, construction had already begun on the dam. The works on the access road were being slowed down by the protest, and the local population and workers were being becoming angry with what they saw as a small group of Innu who were threatening their livelihood. Another example of HQ's confidence in its political influence: HQ's original plan called for the diversion of two tributaries of the neighbouring Moisie river. Because of almost complete opposition to this aspect of the project within the Innu community, as well as by non-native sport fishing interests (the Moisie is a well-known salmon fishing river), the agreement specifies that HQ is

only negotiating to dam the Sainte-Marguerite system. In spite of this, the agreement allows HQ to build a generator with capacity for the additional flow that would result from the diversion — i.e. HQ has not discarded this option, and could come back at a later time and negotiate for this as well. And one final example: when we asked the administrator of the project before the referendum about what would happen in case of a "no", his answer was: what will happen if they vote "yes"? ☸

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Toronto ON M5S 2R4  
(416) 533-3897  
Charitable # 0470760 59 14

**HARBOURFRONT CENTRE**



# Toronto unites against racism

by Cynthia Wright  
T.C.A.R.

Now entering its second year, The Toronto Coalition Against Racism, (TCAR) unites activists in the struggle against racism. A key focus of TCAR's work is fighting the backlash against immigrants and refugees. In conjunction with other community groups, we recently held a press conference to protest the direction of federal immigration policy and to express our outrage about the renewed attempts to scapegoat and criminalize people of colour. The following is an excerpt from TCAR's press statement. For more information, call at 530-0262.

In February, Sergio Marchi announced that the federal government was initiating a public consultation process to develop new immigration policy. From the beginning, the process has been open to a select few to define what will be discussed and who will do the talking. A closed conference of thirty people was held in March to set the agenda for the consultation. Five public meetings are being held

across Canada, including one in Toronto. Yet we receive more immigrants — just under a third of the national total — than any other community. Does the Minister really think that one evening meeting is enough time for debating the future of immigration in this city and in this country?

While we are angry and frustrated about the consultation process, we are even more concerned about the direction of federal immigration policy. While Marchi says this process is open, we are left wondering: Is the real debate on immigration being conducted elsewhere? Is Marchi trying to out-Reform the Reform Party? Consider these recent developments:

In response to Reform pressure, Marchi has proposed automatic HIV testing for all immigrants and refugees.

In April, the Toronto Star reported that Marchi was considering changing Canada's Citizenship Act so that children born in Canada to non-Canadian parents would not have automatic citizenship.

Marchi has proposed tightening the family class category, so that parents would not be included for sponsorship. While Marchi strongly opposed this idea when it was first put forward by the Tories, he is now taking a look at this idea. Similarly, while the Liberals in opposition were critics of Bill C-86, Marchi has maintained most of the provisions of this retrograde bill.

We are seeing reductions in the numbers of refugees admitted; those who are let in are now being charged \$500 in order to apply for permanent residence and non-government-sponsored refugees have seen their allowances removed.

Finally, we are deeply worried that a law and order agenda is setting immigration policy. The recent deaths of Georgina Leimonis and Constable Baylis have become the focus of renewed calls for the deportation of criminals. Marchi has already moved to place serious limits to appeals against deportation. But deporting people to their countries of birth, when they have grown up here, will not solve any crime problems. We also strongly

resist any attempt to stigmatize the Black community, Asians or immigrants as the "criminals."

These are scary times for immigrants and refugees, many of whom are people of colour. This consultation is taking place at a time of increased backlash against immigration. TCAR believes that racism in immigration policy and in the broader society must be acknowledged and eradicated. Most people are familiar with the racist history of Canadian immigration policy. But racism in Canada did not end in the 1960s when "race" was dropped as a criterion for admission. Today, when the majority of immigrants are people of colour, we are once again seeing disturbing signs of growing intolerance in the opinion polls and on the streets.

We have real concerns that the backlash against immigrants and refugees is also being carried out in federal policy. If, indeed, the Liberals are trying to out-Reform the Reform Party on immigration policy, and to cut around their own consultation process, they will not do so with our consent. ✽

## TURTLE ISLAND NOTES



### White House Demo

Approximately 3000 supporters demanded freedom for Leonard Peltier on June 24 & 25 at the Peltier Weekend Day of Ceremony in Washington. People traveled from all over the world in a strong show of unity. Speakers included co-founder of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Steve Robideau, author Peter Matthiessen, actor/singer Kris Kristofferson, and many other activists and supporters including Leonard's mother Alvina Showers. News of protests by Zoi Lightfoot, who jumped from a plane to draw attention to the case, and LaVonne White who has been fasting since June 17 for Leonard's freedom, bring new energy to the struggle.

### Kanehsatake

July 8, 9 & 10 was the fourth annual Spiritual Gathering at Kanehsatake, marking the anniversary of what is commonly known as the standoff at Oka. Rain and wind did not deter the many who came to watch, and dance while two drums kept up the momentum throughout and the sun eventually came out in full force. The gathering took place down the road from the famous Pines where Mohawks defended their land against the expansion of a golf course in the summer of 1990. Many Nations travelled to share in the Pow Wow and special guests included members of the ANC who also brought a drum and participated in the ceremonies.

### Struggle for Land Rights

One of the largest court cases to challenge a treaty agreement is still in initial stages but Federal and Provincial governments are passing the buck as to who should take responsibility. On Feb 24, 1994 the Saugeen Ojibway served notice on Ontario and Canada that they will be sued for a breach of their fiduciary obligations to the Saugeen Ojibway. "What we are saying by this action" says Darlene Johnston, Legal Researcher for the Saugeen Ojibway "is that by getting us to sign the treaty of 1854, the Crown did not live up to the standards of high behaviour it set for itself in previous legislation." In addition to the court case, the Saugeen are also fighting policies influenced by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters which are clearly racist against First Nations. Groups wishing to get involved are invited to join the OFAH to help call for change from within.



## ARA beats bogus charges

Good news for four protesters who were arrested last November at an Anti Racist Action demonstration in front of the home of Ernst Zundel, one of the five largest distributors of Nazi propaganda in the world. All charges against the four were dismissed after three days of testimony July 5, 6 & 7 at College Park. Another defendant has had his trial postponed until October 5th as the cop involved with his case is on vacation. Charges, which were clearly fabricated, ranged from 'obstruct police' for one member refusing to identify himself to a police

constable to 'assault police' for pulling away from an undercover or 'old clothes' officer. This demonstrator, court heard, was later assaulted by police. No charges were laid against the officers. Cross examination by the defendants' lawyers showed an overwhelming police presence at the demonstration, but it was not addressed why a handful of Zundel supporters who were also demonstrating were allowed to do so behind police barricades. Another trial resumes in September for charges laid at a similar demo. ✽

## No to all forms of oppression

### Action Canada Network Bulletin

In April, the San Francisco Chronicle published an interview with EZLN Sub-Commandant Marcos in which he said that he had once worked in a restaurant in San Francisco, but had been fired for being gay. The story, which was told to illustrate a point, was picked by elements of the pro-government press in Mexico in an attempt to discredit Marcos.

In a recent communique, Marcos replied to this government attempt to smear him. Part of the communicated response was cited in a recent Chronicle article.

"About whether Marcos is homosexual: Marcos is gay in San Francisco, black in South Africa, an Asian in Europe, a Chicano in San Ysidro, an anarchist in Spain, a Palestinian in Israel, a Mayan Indian in the streets of San Cristobal, a gang member in Neza, a rocker in the National University, a Jew in Germany, an ombudsman in the Defense Ministry, a communist in the post-Cold War era, an artist without a gallery or portfolio... A pacifist in Bosnia, a housewife alone on Saturday night in any neighborhood in any city in Mexico, a striker in the CTM, a reporter writing filler stories for the back pages, a single woman on the metro at 10 p.m., a peasant without land, an unemployed worker... an unhappy student, a dissident amid free market economics, a writer without books or readers, and, of course, a Zapatista in the mountains of southeast Mexico. So Marcos is a human being, any human being, in this world. Marcos is all the exploited, marginalized and oppressed minorities, resisting and saying, 'Enough'!" ✽



# War: what is it good for? Absolutely 0

## ACT's presentation to Canada's Defense Policy Review

by Stephen Dankowich  
ACT for Disarmament

War has never been the solution. War only creates more problems. It does not get to the root of the problems which cause the wars in the first place.

We are concerned about all Canadian contributions in preparation for war.

### a) nuclear fuel cycle:

Canadian uranium fuels the world's nuclear bombs. At least 30% of the world's uranium is mined in Canada. Canadian uranium was used in the Fat Boy and Little Boy Atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Canadian uranium was enriched by both sides during the Cold War (eg. Latvian enriching plant for Soviet nuclear weapons; the French nuclear programme is dependent on Saskatchewan uranium). The US uranium industry was put out of business by NAFTA and their inability to compete with much higher grade Canadian uranium ore. We have documents detailing the sale of depleted uranium to the US Department of Energy just prior to the Gulf War; this Canadian contribution to "peace" has left an environmental nightmare for Iraq today and is believed to have caused the high rate of sickness of US soldiers in the aftermath of that war. Tritium is installed in all US nuclear weapons; the US has no operating tritium-producing nuclear power plants and is dependent on our tritium (a radioactive isotope waste-product of the CANDU nuclear reactors); tritium decays in 12.3 years so the US nuclear bombs need to keep being replenished; Canada assures the functioning of the US nuclear weapons program. This Canadian contribution to "peace" (ensuring the first strike capability of NATO) has left an environmental disaster in Canada from Chalk River to radioactive flooding in

Saskatchewan to the release of tritium into Lake Ontario by CANDU reactors causing an increase in birth defects.

### b) arms sales:

Arms sales promote violence as a solution to conflict. Canadian arms are sold to known human rights

level military flight training in Nitassinan (Labrador-Quebec peninsula) is preparation for first strike nuclear and/or conventional war; the Cold War is over; the Innu never ceded their land to any government, ever, and never consented to the use of their airspace for this training; environmental degradation of this

pristine wilderness has ensued as valleys and rivers are primarily overflowed; Innu way of life is threatened as they are unable to hunt, fish and trap as their ancestors have for 6,000 years for fear of being overflowed; wildlife is threatened as well including the peregrine falcon and the harlequin duck. We call for an immediate end to continued low-level military flight training in Nitassinan. We call for an immediate end to continued nuclear submarine exercises from Nanose Bay, BC.



### CONCLUSION:

#### ABOLISH THE MILITARY

The time has come to move to civilian-based defence. Does the Panel seriously believe that Canadians would cooperate with an invading army and a military occupation? The Canadian military today exists largely to put down any domestic "uprisings", witness Oka. We call for the transferring of the \$billions in savings to helping to prevent wars, at home and abroad. The money should be used for the environmental cleanup of the military bases and for social justice at home and around the world (water, food production). Financially and ecologically, the costs of a military presence are enormous. No to NATO; Canada must disengage itself from the first-strike nuclear club of the western industrial nations; the Cold War is over; there is no further rationale for NATO. Peace and security rests on assuring social justice for all the planet's citizens. ☸

### c) peace-keeping:

Less than 2% of DND's budget is spent on peace-keeping. The consequences of our efforts in Somalia are abhorrent and put into question the reputation of future Canadian peace-keeping efforts.

### d) weapons testing:

From coast to coast, Canada is deeply involved in preparations for war. Cruise missile testing was cancelled only because new technologies have rendered it obsolete. Low

On June 16th and 17th Canada's Defence Review Board was in Toronto to hear two days of presentations from groups and individuals concerning this country's defence policy. The panel, comprised of senators and MP's, were traveling across the country to listen to presentations and criticisms from a variety of different perspectives, however it seemed clear that the panel had less than an open mind where peace activists were concerned.

In Toronto, peace groups that sent representatives included Toronto Voice of Women, Science for Peace, the United Church of Canada, Defence Watch, the International Campaign for Innu and the Earth, and ACT for Disarmament.

For observers and presenters alike, it did not take long to see that the panel was stacked. Panel members thanked pro-military presenters, praised their efforts and encouraged them in "future endeavors", while Peace Groups and concerned individuals were left patiently waiting as question after question was directed to speakers who support the views of panel members. When questions were directed to those presenting against militarism, they were confrontational, condescending and derogatory, not to mention long winded, with few exceptions.

More than once panel members accused peace activists of "not living in the real world" while they indulged themselves in discussing how to get "bigger bang for less bucks".

As this panel was conceived to "consult broadly", (not "dialogue" as acting chair Senator de Bané referred to some panel members tendency towards debate) it is unfortunate that so much valuable time (and money!) was gobbled listening to the views of panel members not presenters.

Reprinted here is the submission made by ACT for Disarmament. Conclusions of the board will be forthcoming.

## PEACE MEAL

OTTAWA — A landmark ruling has granted refugee status to a Somali mother and her two children because the woman's 10-year old daughter faced ritual genital mutilation if deported.

The United Nations World Health Organization estimates as many as 114 million women worldwide have endured the procedure that involves cutting the external female sexual organs away and sewing the opening shut except for a small hole for urination and menstruation. It is done to girls between the ages of 6 and 9 — usually without anesthetic — to suppress their sexual urges and ensure they are chaste before marriage.

In March, 1993, Canada became the first country in the world to introduce refugee board guidelines permitting women to claim refugee status on the basis of gender persecution.

KYRGYZSTAN — An international geophysical expedition has announced that radiation from China's last underground nuclear explosion escaped into the atmosphere and was carried by easterly winds into all of the central Asian republics.

According to a report in the newspaper *Vecherny Bishkek*, a "mist" of discharged particles from the June 10 blast increased radiation in the Kyrgyzstan republic by 40 per cent, reaching 5 micro roentgens per hour.

CHICAGO — As many as 10 U.S. nuclear reactors have developed cracks in steel shrouds surrounding radioactive fuel, a problem the Nuclear Regulatory Commission says could lead to a meltdown in the event of an accident or natural disaster such as an earthquake.

A reactor operators group reported cracks in welds at 10 reactors, including two in Europe and China, and indications of cracking at two others in the United States.

"These utilities are writing a prescription for disaster," said Paul Gunter, director of the Reactor Watchdog Project for the Nuclear Information and Resource Service.

"They're adding more and more patches, Band-Aids, jury-rigs. They're going to run them until they break down, at the expense of public health and safety."





# EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Number 35 — July 19, 1994

*In December 1975, just ten days after it had declared its independence from Portugal, the tiny southeast Asian country of East Timor was invaded by its neighbour, Indonesia. In the 18 years since then, 250,000 people — over a third of the indigenous Timorese population — have been killed. Genocide and massive human rights violations — everything from rape to indiscriminate killings to forced abortions — go on to this day. But so does the struggle for freedom of the East Timorese people. It is largely the support of countries like Canada that allows the Indonesian armed forces to maintain their illegal occupation of East Timor.*

*East Timor Update is a monthly news service edited in Toronto by the East Timor Alert Network. The service is also available by electronic mail: email etantor@web.apc.org. Contact ETAN for more information:*

**ETAN/Toronto:** PO Box 562, Station P, Toronto, M5S 2T1, (416) 531-5850 (phone/fax).

**ETAN/Calgary:** 2820—1st Ave. NW, Calgary Alta., T2N 0C8.

**ETAN/Guelph:** PO Box 1302, Main Station, Guelph Ont., N1H 6N6, (519) 767-0313.

**ETAN/Hamilton:** c/o Earth Action, Box 212, Gilmour Hall, McMaster Univ., Hamilton Ont., L8S 1C0.

**ETAN/Montréal:** No. 47505, Co. P. Plateau Mont-Royal, Montréal, H2H 2S8, (514) 848-7443.

**ETAN/Ottawa:** PO Box 1031, Station B, Ottawa Ont., K1P 5R1.

**ETAN/Vancouver:** 2120 West 44th #104, Vancouver BC, V6M 2G2, (604) 739-4947.

**ETAN/Windsor-Essex County:** c/o Third World Resource Centre, 125 Tecumseh Rd. W., Windsor Ont., N8X 1E8, (519) 252-1517.

*For up-to-the day information on East Timor, call ETAN/Vancouver's information line: (604) 739-4947.*

## Indonesia kills Guelph aid project

Stung by mounting discussion of its human rights record, the Indonesian government has axed a controversial aid project administered by Guelph University. Cancelling the Sulawesi Regional Development Project has been a long-standing goal of East Timor activists in Guelph, Ont., and throughout Canada.

The Indonesian government made the decision to kill the project, run by Guelph and funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, following the publication of a report commissioned by the university that came down heavily on the side of activists who have argued that the project lends legitimacy to the Indonesian regime's appalling human rights record.

Guelph had been searching for ways to discredit the report by external reviewers Meyer Brownstone (former head of OXFAM Canada) and Clovis Demers (vice-president of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in Montreal). However, the decision to kill the \$38 million project, the largest Canadian university aid project in Indonesia, was taken by Indonesian officials sensitive about international criticism.

The chorus of protest in Canada against the Sulawesi project apparently became too much for them, prompting a complete shutdown over the summer. Indonesia has previously decided not to accept aid from the Netherlands because of strong Dutch pressure to improve the human rights situation.

The campaign against the Sulawesi project was initiated by Guelph professors concerned about East Timor, and supported by members of the East Timor Alert Network, Ontario Public Interest Research Group, and other organizations.

There are at least seven more Canadian universities with aid projects in Indonesia: Simon Fraser (Burnaby, B.C.), Dalhousie (Halifax), York (Toronto), Waterloo (Waterloo, Ont.), McGill (Montreal), the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg) and the Open Learning Institute (Vancouver). An active campaign is already under way at SFU.

### A new Dili massacre

Indonesian soldiers have attacked a crowd of peaceful protesters in Dili, the capital of East Timor, killing 3 people and wounding at least 19, according to reports from the Timorese NGO ETADep. The 14 July massacre, reminiscent of the November 1991 Santa Cruz massacre in which 273 were killed, was reported widely on the international wire services, but the lack of photographs kept it off the front pages.

On July 14 a peaceful group of 500 people, many of them students at the University of East Timor, assembled to protest a recent spate of "sacrilegious" acts committed by Indonesian occupation forces in East Timor, such as harassing nuns and trampling communion wafers. The anti-Catholic activities are aimed at undermining the Catholic church, which provides a shelter to the East Timorese people.

The crowd was attacked by soldiers in full riot gear after marching only a short

distance. The attack, however, was done with knives, with the dead being killed by having their throats slashed. Several others have disappeared and are feared dead, and 22 protesters are in custody.

The atmosphere in Dili is now more tense than it has been in months, and further violence is possible. The safety of those being held by military authorities is also in jeopardy.

ETAN appeals for pressure on the Canadian government, which has so far been silent on the latest murders in East Timor. Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet had previously scheduled a meeting with Indonesian counterpart Ali Alatas during an international meeting in Bangkok on July 22-28. It is vital that Canada express its protest in the strongest possible terms, given that this is the most blatant use of violence by soldiers to break up a peaceful protest in East Timor since the Santa Cruz massacre of 1991. Then, the former Conservative government suspended \$30 million in aid projects to Indonesia. What will the Liberal government do this time?

As well as issuing a protest, Canada should be working to ensure the release of those still held, free access to investigators from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (as promised on numerous occasions by the Indonesian government) and an independent inquiry into the massacre.

Letters can be sent to Foreign Minister Ouellet c/o House of Commons, Ottawa Ont., K1A 0A6, or faxed to (613) (613) 995-9926. Please send copies to Bloc leader Lucien Bouchard and NDP critic Svend Robinson at the same address.

### Flag-raisers jailed

Six East Timorese were jailed in July for displaying pro-independence symbols. Two of them were sentenced to 3-year jail terms for the "crime" of raising the flag of independent East Timor last July 17. Four more received 20-month sentences for marching through the streets of Dili with signs while a team of international journalists was being shown around East Timor by military escorts earlier this year. An Indonesian court found them guilty of "expressing anti-Indonesia sentiments in front of the public."

### Weeklies banned

Three of the most popular weekly publications in Indonesia have been banned for being overly critical of the government. The trio, with a combined circulation of well over half a million, had their licences to publish revoked after a series of articles about conflicts within the government and increased coverage about pro-democracy sentiments in Indonesia.

The magazines Tempo (Indonesia's equivalent to Time magazine) and Editor and the popular tabloid DeTik were banned without warning. Soon after, four more papers were warned to tone down their reporting or lose their licences as well.

The press ban sparked a demonstration of hundreds of journalists and supporters in front of the Indonesian parliament buildings, which was broken up by police wielding rattan canes. The

violent suppression of dissent, part of a new crackdown by the Suharto regime, also prompted pro-democracy Indonesians to form a new organization that will campaign for press freedom.

In response to the press ban, the East Timor Alert Network joined an international chorus of protest calling on the World Bank not to release aid dollars to Indonesia at the annual meeting of donor countries and institutions. "By withholding these funds until the Indonesian government grants the fundamental right of freedom of the press and freedom of expression, the world community can send a clear signal and help the people, rather than government, of Indonesia," ETAN wrote. "Surely that is the goal of development aid." ETAN also asked Canada to withhold its aid dollars (Indonesia is the second-largest recipient of bilateral Canadian aid).

However, the donor meeting in Paris on July 7-8 agreed to release \$5.1 billion, even more than the \$5 billion the Indonesian government had requested. After a meeting with ETAN, Canadian officials agreed to insert a reference to the press ban into their opening statement at the meeting. However, the Canadian pledge — \$35 million — went ahead unchanged.

### Strutting Southeast Asia

Fresh from intimidating the Philippines into banning many foreigners from the recent Asia Pacific Conference on East Timor in Manila, the Indonesian government has moved to have discussion of East Timor in two other Southeast Asian countries stopped.

"East Timor is Asia's Bosnia," Malaysian opposition MP James Wong Wing On said at a recent gathering on East Timor in Kuala Lumpur sponsored by the Front of Malaysian Action, a coalition of 30 groups. "We cannot continue condemning the situation in Bosnia while looking away from what is going on in ET, on our own doorstep." Under Indonesian pressure, however, Malaysian government officials are considering banning its citizens from participation in East Timor events.

Meanwhile, Thailand has issued a blacklist of 11 East Timorese solidarity activists who will be banned from the country during the annual meeting of foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Activists with the Southeast Asian Network on Human Rights said they would go ahead with a planned conference on East Timor and Burma despite the ban.

### No more U.S. guns

On July 14, the U.S. Senate made an unprecedented vote to ban the sale of light arms to Indonesia because of the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. On a voice vote, the Senate passed an amendment to its foreign aid bill proposed by Senators Patrick Leahy and Russell Feingold. The House of Representatives have already passed a similar bill. A House-Senate committee must now resolve the differences between the two.



# Private Interest, Public Spending:

## Balanced-Budget Conservatism and the Fiscal Crisis

by Sidney Plotkin and  
William E. Scheurman  
Reviewed by Penny Costoglou  
the ACTivist

*Private Interest, Public Spending*, is a detailed step by step account of the infiltration practices of American corporations into the business of government spending that concentrates its decisions on the economic allocation of funds on programs aimed to help the citizens of its nation. In fact, the authors show how several industrialists have monopolized billions of government funds to satisfy their own personal interests through the systemic abuse of democratic regulations that would otherwise, if not broken, have kept the exploitive tactics of these individuals out of the system.

The authors further cite several examples in this book of the vicious attacks committed by big business against the most vulnerable members of American society that were carried out by corrupt, bribed and coopted politicians in government. The tasks of these politicians, according to these authors, was to pervert the democratic process of government so as to resemble the ideologically-correct, right wing philosophy of conducting all business of government. Although the Clinton's contribution to the Republican cause of oligarchic possessiveness for the direction of government has been more resistant to its political message, the neoconservative governments of Reagan and Bush have been easier to convince of such a move. In fact, Reagan and Bush have been most eagerly cooperative to fight against the Left and other democratic movements that otherwise would have brought about opposition to their conservative economic policies that would restrict the upward mobility of the majority of the people. These tactics were carried out through institutionalized principles of hate, of workers' marginalization from the political processes of the State and of the wage exploitation of the Left's Achilles' heel; that is, the working poor and the unemployed.

In the midst of the author's description of all this economic chaos that exists in American society today, they provide some ex-

amples of democratic politicians who fought against the backlash of neoconservatism on a large scale and won major victories for their citizens. They include brilliant examples of New Jersey's governor, James Florio and California's governor, Jerry Brown's fighting tactics against a 'balance budget conservatism', which gave ordinary citizens ample social benefits and jobs without increasing the total deficits of the country. On the other hand, similarly brilliant is the authors' account of Mario Cuomo's negative governing practices that weakened the voices of public sector unions and disentangled the stronghold of solidarity which was organized by the Left. According to the authors, the result of this disentanglement is a loosely-tied web of coopted politicians who increasingly use their personal powers to control the direction of unions towards the 'suggested' Right, instead of fighting against the temptations of business.



According to the authors, the ethical and liberal sixties are dead. Middle classists who had previously fought for the rights of democracy and the inclusion of the poor in the democratic system have now fortified themselves against the working poor and the unemployed who overcrowd the streets, the prisons and mental institutions of their states and cities. The United States of America, under Reagan and Bush has established itself into a two-tier caste system of haves and havenots.

The authors conclude, with the suggestion for the reader, that the new tasks of community workers and organizers today, may be the need to increase public participation in community committees that would give individuals a way to brainstorm new peaceful strategies for maintaining a democratic voice in the system. These committees would work against all the oppressive backlash of government cuts that is stifling community workers' present day efforts to maintain a more inclusive, anti-segregated community. In conclusion, I found that the book was extremely informative about the political trends that exist in the American system today, as well as it was intriguingly informative about the political economic system of business, dealing with government.

## Stop low-level flights now! (cont'd from page 1)

the negative impacts of LLMFTing and (continued on page 8) how to solve them. For example, no research has been done to determine the nature of the impacts resulting from overflights of noise-sensitive areas by LLMFTing.

Military bases throughout Canada have been closed thanks to the end of the Cold War. Many communities were built up as military towns. But if their intended contribution is no longer required then there remains no further justification for their existence. It is not any different than an auto town shutting down due to technological developments in auto production. Economic alternatives will have to be pursued and the sooner people get on with it, the better for their community's long term potential success. Militarization is wrong.

LLMFTing from Goose Bay was promoted as Canada's contribution to the Cold War and to its NATO partners. The Warsaw Pact has been superseded by the Partnership for Peace signed by all former Warsaw Pact nations. No threat remains.

Now, DND claims that LLMFTing from Goose Bay is to support multinational efforts to end regional conflict. It is incredulous militarists still believe that war can end conflicts. In fact, war has only created more problems and has not gotten to the roots of the problems which inspired the regional conflicts in the first place. Recent NATO low-level bombing missions in the former Yugoslavia have not stopped the bloodshed. Canadian contributions to peace are best served by working to prevent conflicts in the first place. LLMFTing is preparation for war, including nuclear war. We believe preference should be given to meeting

social needs in Canada rather than to engage Canada in war and preparations for war.

Northeastern North America is one of the last pristine wilderness areas left in all of Canada. The potential for eco-tourism is enormous. LLMFTing is contributing to the destruction of this wilderness area as well as the unique integrity of the Innu hunting culture. DND has admitted that wilderness tourism is incompatible with LLMFTing.

Alternatives to the Base do exist. This is not a facile suggestion. It only lacks the political will of the federal government and the provincial governments of Newfoundland and Quebec together with the creative potential of its citizens to arrive at the establishment of alternatives to the Base.

In conclusion, it is ICIE's position that DND has not demonstrated in its revised EIS that the Innu's rights to their traditional activities are not negatively affected. DND has not fully examined Innu rights and how they are being affected. An immediate halt to LLMFTing must be the decision of the FEARO panel.

Furthermore, we find it incredulous that LLMFTing has been allowed to continue since 1986 when an independent environmental assessment panel was requested to be set up to determine if LLMFTing could coexist with protection for people, wildlife and the environment OR since 1990 when FEARO identified 29 major deficiencies in DND's first EIS. If it had not been scientifically proven that protection was assured, LLMFTing should have been suspended.

## Classified

**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!** Read books about the global food system, pesticides, the great lakes, dam projects, forest issues, healthy eating and cooking, today's women, media manipulation and current affairs. Write to Wise Hearts, 7700 Hurontario St., Suite 312B-183, Brampton, ON L6Y 4M3.

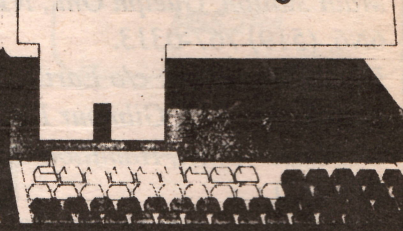
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